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MR. KNUTSEN: Good afternoon. My name is Rainard Knutsen. I'm a resident of Las Vegas and I'm a volunteer, and I stress volunteer, with Shundahai Network, an environmental justice organization begun by Corbin Harney, who is the spiritual leader of the Western Shoshone Nation. Now, "Shundahai" is a Western Shoshone word that means peace and harmony with all creation, and I'm here to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Yucca Mountain proposed nuclear waste repository, or nuclear waste dump, as I call it.

And I am very glad to see my friend Marley Sage here. He just celebrated his tenth birthday recently. And I'm speaking for him, although I hope that he will come up and speak himself sometime. And I'm speaking for his generation. I'm also speaking for all the living creatures and all the plants not only in this country but around the world, for all those who have no voices to participate in this process.

I've been closely following work in Yucca Mountain and have been attending these meetings since 1989, for eleven years, and have participated and testified at numerous workshops conducted by the DOE, including the scoping hearings on this DEIS.

1... | This DEIS prepared for and submitted by the DOE is vitally flawed and is not suitable for any intelligent decision to be based on, and I demand that the DOE immediately cancel all work on Yucca Mountain and begin this process again in a more intelligent and a more sane manner. |

Now, the DOE has probably heard some of my comments many times before, but I'm going to go ahead and repeat myself because I think it's important for others here to hear what I have to say. And I will be presenting more detailed written comments by the end of the deadline.

2 | The history of the Department of Energy shows us that the DOE is biased in favor of the nuclear energy industry and the nuclear weapons complex. History from the past 50 years has shown us the enormous consequences these activities have had not only in our own country but on the entire world. We have raised global background radiation through our routine and continued radioactive contamination of our air, earth, and water. Any way you look at it, in the past 50 years it's had a devastating impact on the earth and will continue to impact it for the next 250,000 years. The nuclear industry has impacted the earth more than any other industry in history.

3 | And I tremble at the audacity of you and all those who are participating in this impact on the earth. |
The development of nuclear weapons and energy has always been accompanied publicly by the scientific community proclaiming how safe and how efficient this technology is. And those of you here in Utah and us from Nevada were told from the beginning -- from the beginning of the Nevada Test Site that the nuclear weapons that they were testing were completely safe, and we have seen that this has been a lie. And the Department of Energy, which took over for the Atomic Energy Commission, has continued to lie to me and to the public. And those of you who have testified about how safe radiation is are lying to us right now, and I am ashamed of you and I'm outraged. |

1... | Time and time again science has proven to be wrong, tragically so, and I consider that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which weighs about 13 pounds, is basically a pack of lies backed by bad science. |

My favorite analogy for the nuclear dilemma that we are involved in is that it's like a bathtub with the faucets turned on full blast spewing nuclear waste into this bathtub. And it's overflowing onto the floor, the nuclear waste is overflowing on to the floor. And in this picture the Department of Energy and the proposed Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump is like someone with a mop dancing around and trying to mop up the water, the nuclear waste as it spills onto the floor as it continues to do so. And they're trying not to get their feet wet while they're mopping up this water, but they can't do it fast enough because it's

continuing to overflow. And all they have to do is reach over and turn off the faucets and stop that flow of nuclear waste, and then we can truly begin to clean up the mess that's been created.

4 And that's what we're going to have to do right now, and that's what the Department of Energy has the responsibility of doing is stopping the flow of nuclear waste. And then and only then can we truly begin to deal with the problem that we've created and start to deal effectively with the nuclear waste situation. And this is stated in the summary of the EIS that says DOE is responsible for implementing a permanent solution to the management of spent nuclear fuel and high-level nuclear waste.

5 Well, Yucca Mountain is not a permanent solution, and I think everybody here agrees with me on that. Yucca Mountain will not even contain all the nuclear waste that's being created and that will be planned to be created over the next 30 years. So Yucca Mountain is no way a permanent solution, and it needs to be stopped until a permanent solution is reached. Because we don't have room for more Yucca Mountains. There's not enough room in the whole world to safely contain all the nuclear waste that's planned on being created.

...1 When I hear the DOE explaining what Yucca Mountain is, I basically hear the Department of Energy saying that, one, we do not know exactly what we're building, that it might change; two, we do not know exactly how much nuclear waste is going to come and how much nuclear waste we're going to have to put in there; and number three, we don't know how that nuclear waste is going to get to Yucca Mountain. And on those three points I think this DEIS needs to be thrown completely out, because there is no way that the United States, the people, congress can make a sane decision based on these we don't know's.

6 There's thousands of ways that this DEIS is fundamentally flawed and why it has to be sent directly to the recycling center and the process begun with again. And in the time allotted, I do not -- I cannot even begin to address those thousands of ways that I believe this DEIS is flawed. But the number one -- I will touch on a few points. I think the Department of Energy has not made any attempt to do outreach to the public to inform the public that they have a right and a responsibility to participate in this decision. I don't -- placing one ad in the Salt Lake City newspaper does not constitute public outreach.

I think with the billions of dollars that are being spent, the Department of Energy cannot say that we do not have the funding to do effective outreach. In Las Vegas we had -- the rooms were filled with people on both sessions, and the only reason why they were filled was because community organizations, volunteers got out and contacted those people and let them know that those hearings were going on. And a lot of people that we talked to on the streets had no idea, and the DOE said that they had done effective community outreach. And under the National Environmental Policy Act it is required that the DOE does that, and I don't think that that has happened. So for that reason alone, this DEIS process needs to be started all over again.

7 Hearings need to be held not only on all the impacted reservations around the country where the nuclear waste is going to be going through, but also every single state and city that this nuclear waste will be traveling through. And the seven, or I guess it's nine cities outside of Nevada that are having hearings right now do not even come anywhere close to fulfilling the requirements under law for the DOE to have public participation in this process.

MR. BROWN: If you can cover your remaining points in about two minutes or so.

MR. KNUTSEN: Thank you. I will. And I'll probably be speaking again tonight.

Yesterday I had some friends who went and took a tour of Yucca Mountain, a private tour with the Department of Energy. Some of them refused to go into Yucca Mountain, but some of them were taken

about two miles within the tunnel. And the first -- I wasn't there, so I'm -- I have somebody here who was on the tour, and maybe he can collaborate on some of this information.

But the first thing, they went down this train track that went into Yucca Mountain, and the train track was all kind of twisted and curvy; and one of the people on the -- one of the DOE people on the tour admitted that the tracks were skewed because of the movement of the ground and that occasionally the trolley cars that carry personnel and materials down into this mountain tipped over and derailed because the tracks couldn't be kept straight.

8 When they got down in Yucca Mountain, my friend saw that there was water dripping from cracks in the ceiling and that there were puddles of water on the ground. And the Department of Energy tells us that Yucca Mountain is completely dry, that there's no water that moves through it, and yet they found contamination from above ground testing 500 feet below the surface of Yucca Mountain. How does this contamination get there from above ground testing if it's not carried there by the water? The Department of Energy is lying to us.

9 One of my friends reached out and touched the wall of Yucca Mountain, the tunnel, and with his hand he took off a big chunk of rock and crumbled it. That's not a solid rock. That's like sandstone or something. It's -- there's no way that Yucca Mountain can contain the nuclear waste for ten -- the nuclear waste is going to be contained for a lot more than 10,000 years, and under this process DOE is only looking at 10,000 years.

Those are just some of the observations that my friend told me by himself what's going on in Yucca Mountain. I think -- I just want to -- I'm going to wrap up here. I'm going to speak later on.

10 But again, I want to say that the Department of Energy is telling us lies, they have told us lies from the beginning, and I demand that this process be halted, that all -- they're not studying Yucca Mountain, they are actually building the nuclear waste dump. And some of the workers even admit it. The workers who testified at the Las Vegas hearing two days ago said that this is a nuclear waste dump. They're not saying that we're studying whether it's going to be a nuclear waste dump, they said it's a nuclear waste dump and there's no way we can stop it.

11 But this will be stopped, and you might as well just save yourself a lot of money by stopping it right now and beginning the process again, stopping nuclear waste production, putting -- devoting a lot of the billions of dollars into environmentally sound energy systems, and then over the next fifty or a hundred years, maybe we can really solve the nuclear waste problem. But rushing into a bad solution is no solution. And Yucca Mountain is a bad solution.

Thank you.